

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 to 16, 18 to 23, 25 to 34, and 36 to 40 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 11, 16, 20, 23, 29, 34 and 38 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 16, 18 to 23, 25 to 34, and 36 to 40 were rejected under 35. U.S.C § 102(b) over Gasser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,163). As shown above, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 23 to define the invention in greater clarity. Applicants traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role. The method also includes receiving, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid; and issuing a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication, wherein the delegation credential includes encoded delegation information.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, Gasser does not disclose or suggest "issuing a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication, wherein the delegation credential includes encoded delegation information."

In this regard, it was said on page 4 of the Office Action (referring to claim 1) that Gasser discloses a delegating authorization from one entity in a distributing system. Each entity on the distributed is given a unique name and a private key/public key for encoding and decoding certain messages, and therefore, delegation credential is readable as access rights or granting access to a certain message. Applicant should duly note that the delegation authorization of Gasser is based on a unique name and also on a private key/public key, accordingly, delegation credential is equivalent to granting access to a resource or message.

and on page 3 of the Office Action (referring to claim 2) that

Gasser discloses the claimed method wherein the delegation credential comprises encoded delegation information (see., col. 3, lines 7-15, col. 5, lines 42-68).

Applicants understand the Examiner as saying that a remote resource issues a delegation credential when the remote resource grants a user access to the remote resource. Applicants also understand the Examiner as saying that because a remote resource is an entity on the system which has a private key that enables the remote resource to encode messages, the remote system is therefore able to use the private key to encode the information provided in the delegation credential that is issued when the remote resource grants a user access.

Even if "issuing a delegation credential" is equivalent to comparing names on an access control list and granting access if the names are on the list as the Examiner contends, the Gasser system is silent about encoding any information when the remote resource grants access to a user. Rather, the Gasser system simply permits the user to perform the requested operation on the remote resource. The Gasser system does not issue a delegation credential that includes encoded delegation information. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a method that includes receiving a request from a delegate for access to a service and obtaining delegation credentials for the delegate. The method also includes determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for the service and providing the delegation credentials that correspond to the access requirements.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 11, particularly with respect to "determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for the service."

In this regard, Gasser describes issuing a single delegation certificate to a delegate (see column 13, lines 38 to 54). Even when multiple certificates are used, Gasser does not disclose determining which of the delegation certificates correspond to the access requirements. That is, each certificate in the delegation chain of Gasser is necessary; therefore no such determination need be made (see column 13, line 57 to column 14 line 18 of Gasser). Since Gasser does not disclose determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to access requirements for a service, claim 11 is believed to be patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 16 is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegate, a value corresponding to a confirmation code and an identifier. The confirmation code and the identifier correspond to a delegator. The method also includes identifying the delegator using at least one of the identifier and the confirmation code and assigning, to the delegate, a delegation credential that corresponds to the delegator. The method further includes sending a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 16, particularly with respect to "sending a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned."

More specifically, Gasser describes granting access to a resource after it is determined that the user name or delegated system is valid. However, Gasser does not describe sending a

message to the delegator, much less a message indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned (see column 3, lines 26 to 34 and column 13, lines 48 to 54 of Gasser). For at least this reason, claim 16 is believed to be patentable over Gasser.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method that includes receiving, from a delegate, a delegation request for a role of the delegator. The method also includes receiving a value corresponding to a confirmation code from the delegate and receiving, from the delegator, a request for outstanding delegation requests. The method further includes requesting approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate and receiving the confirmation code from the delegator in response to requesting approval.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 20, particularly with respect to "requesting approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate."

In this regard, it was said on page 4 of the Office Action that

Gasser discloses when a user makes a request of a resource or message, the reference monitor (i.e., the manager of access to the resource) looks for the requesting user on that resources access control list. If the user's name id found (or membership in a group is verified), the requested access is granted.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, the Gasser system uses a reference monitor to verify whether the request user's name is on the access control list. If so, the reference monitor compares the access requested by the user to the access allowed by the entry in the access control list. Only if the access control list entry indicates that the access requested is allowed does the reference monitor grant the user access to the remote resource. The "reference monitor" disclosed in the Gasser reference is not equivalent to the "delegator" of this application. Gasser does not mention

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"requesting approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate".

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 should be allowed.

Independent claims 23, 29, 34 and 38 roughly correspond to independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 20, respectively. Accordingly, claims 23, 29, 34 and 38 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claims 1, 11, 16 and 20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 10559-505001.

Respectfully submitted,

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